

Claims:

1. An orthodontic appliance comprising:
  - a base;
  - 5 a body extending outwardly from the base;
  - an archwire slot extending across the appliance in a generally mesial-distal direction;
  - a post; and
  - a latch for releasably retaining an archwire in the archwire slot, wherein the latch includes a clip having a region next to the archwire slot for receiving an archwire, wherein the clip also includes a recess that receives the post, and wherein the recess is not in communication with the archwire-receiving region.
- 10 2. An orthodontic appliance according to claim 1 wherein the clip includes a leg section extending next to the recess, and wherein the leg section is movable in a direction away from the recess in order to admit the post into the recess.
- 15 3. An orthodontic appliance according to claim 2 wherein the leg section is made of a resilient material.
- 20 4. An orthodontic appliance according to claim 1 wherein the clip has a first section, a second section and a third section interconnecting the first section and the second section, and wherein the first section, the second section and the third section together present a generally "U"-shaped configuration and at least partially define the archwire-receiving region.
- 25 5. An orthodontic appliance according to claim 4 wherein the clip has a fourth section connected to the third section and a leg section connected to the fourth section, wherein the leg section and the third section extend in generally parallel directions.
- 30 6. An orthodontic appliance according to claim 5 wherein the leg section, the third section and the fourth section at least partially surround the recess.

7. An orthodontic appliance according to claim 5 wherein the clip has a pair of leg sections extending on opposite sides of the recess, and wherein each leg section is connected to the third section.

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8. An orthodontic appliance according to claim 7 wherein the leg sections extend in directions generally parallel to each other.

9. An orthodontic appliance according to claim 8 wherein the first section and the second section extend in directions generally parallel to the direction of extension of the leg sections.

10. An orthodontic appliance according to claim 1 wherein the recess has an opening that is oriented to receive the post when the clip is moved in a direction generally along an occlusal-gingival reference axis relative to the post.

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11. An orthodontic appliance according to claim 1 wherein the recess has an opening that is oriented to receive the post when the clip is moved in a direction along a generally buccolabial-lingual reference axis relative to the post.

20 12. An orthodontic appliance according to claim 1 wherein the appliance includes a second post, and wherein the clip includes a second recess that receives the second post.

25 13. An orthodontic appliance according to claim 12 wherein the clip includes a first section that extends next to an occlusal side of the archwire slot and the clip includes a second section that extends along a gingival side of the archwire slot, and wherein each of the first section and the second section extends along a respective one of the recesses.

14. An orthodontic appliance according to claim 1 wherein the post is connected to the body.

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15. An orthodontic appliance according to claim 14 wherein the post extends in a direction generally along a mesial-distal reference axis.

5        16. An orthodontic appliance according to claim 14 wherein the body has a mesial and a distal side, and wherein the post  
extends in a direction generally perpendicular to at least one side.

17. An orthodontic appliance according to claim 1 wherein the post includes an enlarged head that extends past the recess.

10      18. An orthodontic appliance according to claim 1 wherein the latch includes a second clip.

15      19. An orthodontic appliance according to claim 18 wherein the body has a mesial side and a distal side, and wherein each of the sides is adjacent a respective one of the clips.

20      20. An orthodontic appliance according to claim 1 wherein the body includes a mesial section, a distal section and a cavity between the mesial section and the distal section, wherein the post extends in a cavity, and wherein the clip is received at least partially in the cavity.

20      21. An orthodontic appliance according to claim 20 wherein the archwire slot has a longitudinal axis, and wherein the post extends in a direction generally parallel to the longitudinal axis of the archwire slot.

25      22. An orthodontic appliance according to claim 1 wherein the post has at least one flat side, and wherein the clip includes at least one flat region in contact with the at least one flat side of a post.

30      23. An orthodontic appliance according to claim 1 wherein the clip includes at least two leg sections that extend in directions generally parallel to each other.

24. An orthodontic appliance according to claim 23 wherein the clip has a first section, a second section and a third section interconnecting the first section and the second section, and wherein the first section, the second section and the third section together present a generally "U"-shaped configuration and at least partially define the archwire-receiving region.

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25. An orthodontic appliance according to claim 24 wherein at least two leg sections extend outwardly from the first section in directions generally along an occlusal-gingival reference axis.

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26. An orthodontic appliance according to claim 25 wherein the clip includes two leg sections that extend outwardly from the first section in an occlusal direction, and two leg sections that extend outwardly from the second section in a generally gingival direction.

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27. An orthodontic appliance according to claim 24 wherein at least two leg sections extend away from the third section in directions generally along a buccolabial-lingual reference axis.

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28. An orthodontic appliance according to claim 1 wherein the appliance includes a second post, and wherein the clip also includes a second recess that receives the second post, and wherein the second recess is not in communication with the archwire-receiving region.

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29. An orthodontic appliance according to claim 1 wherein the appliance further includes an archwire slot liner defining the archwire slot, and wherein the archwire slot liner includes at least one end portion that extends beyond the body.

30. An orthodontic appliance according to claim 29 wherein the end portion of the archwire slot liner extends across a portion of the clip.

31. An orthodontic appliance according to claim 30 wherein the end portion of the archwire slot liner extends in a direction generally along a buccolabial-lingual reference axis.

32. An orthodontic appliance according to claim 1 wherein the recess and the region each have openings that are oriented at angles of approximately 90 degrees relative to each other.  
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33. An orthodontic appliance according to claim 1 wherein the recess and the region each have openings that are oriented at angles of approximately 180 degrees relative to each other.